MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
OCTOBER 18, 1960

The Commission of Fine Arts met, in executive session, pursuant to notice, at 2:00 p.m., with David E. Finley, Chairman, presiding.

Others present were: Douglas W. Orr
William G. Perry
Michael Rapuano
Felix W. de Weldon
L.R. Wilson, Secretary
Charles H. Atherton, Asst. Sec'y
C.L. Martin, Counsel

I. Administration

a. Approval of Minutes of September Meeting

Consideration of the minutes of the meeting for the month of September was postponed until the morning meeting on the following day.

b. Date of the Next Meeting

The date of the next monthly meeting of the Commission was set for November 16, 1960 at 9:30 a.m., with an executive session to be held at 2:00 p.m. on November 15, 1960.

c. Budget for Fiscal Year 1962

The Secretary informed the members that the estimated budget request for the Commission in Fiscal Year 1962 was $70,400. It was explained that this amount represented no increase in the budget over the fiscal year 1961, and in fact was a decrease of $2,500. The reason for the decrease was explained as being the result of a plan to publish an annual report henceforth which will result in a decrease in publication cost to $1,500 from the fund of $3,000 allotted for publication costs in the 1961 budget. The Commission approved the estimated budget request.

II. Submissions

1. Department of Interior, National Capital Parks

a. Site of Headquarters Building

The Commission met with Mr. William M. Haussmann, Chief, Architectural Branch, National Capital Parks, who showed the members a site plan of a proposed location for the Headquarters Building for National

Capital Parks at the western end of East Potomac Park near 14th Street, N.W.

Mr. Haussmann explained that the site being presented was an alternate to the site on park land near 15th Street and C Street, N.W. The Commission had strongly objected when that location was presented for its consideration. Mr. Haussmann stated that a report suggesting three sites had been presented to the Director of the National Park Service, who had rejected two of the suggested sites because they were not near the center of the city.

As to the East Potomac Park site, Mr. Haussmann said the exact location of the proposed building was indefinite at the present time. He said that a minimum of four acres of land was required for the building and necessary parking facilities.

The site shown on the plan is located south of an existing street known as Buckeye Drive. Location of the Headquarters Building on the proposed site would necessitate disrupting the existing 27 hole public golf course as the 4 acres to be utilized would include at least part of the golf course.

After some discussion, the Commission resolved that existing parkland in East Potomac Park should be left undisturbed. The Commission suggested that a study be made of the feasibility of developing a site for the proposed building north of Buckeye Drive, adjacent to the existing National Capital Parks maintenance building. It was suggested that this site could be developed as a proper setting for a headquarters building.

The members asked if any study had been given to selecting a site for the building at the head of the proposed Tenth Street Mall. It was understood by the members that the General Services owns sites for federal buildings in the Tenth Street Mall area, and that a suitable site might be available. The members expressed their belief that this would be the ideal location for the Headquarters Building. A location there would not utilize park land, would be centrally located in the city, and would be ideally located for the tourist services which the National Capital Parks plans to render in its Headquarters Building.

Mr. Haussmann said that he had not investigated the possibility of a Tenth Street Mall site for the building, but he agreed to do so and report his findings to the Commission.

The final action of the Commission was to approve the East Potomac Park site, provided the building was placed north of Buckeye Drive as near to the highways as possible. The Secretary was directed to prepare a letter for the Chairman's signature, setting forth the Commission's recommendations. EXHIBIT A

b. List for 1962 Budgetary Approval

The Commission reviewed a list of proposed projects to be included in the National Capital Parks request for funds for Fiscal Year 1962. The Commission unanimously approved a resolution requesting that Item 17 be eliminated from the list. This was a request for funds with which to place a handrail around the Tidal Basin. A letter was to be prepared by the Secretary to the Superintendent of the National Capital Parks stating the Commission's views on the items on the list.

EXHIBIT B

2. District of Columbia Government

D.C. Department of Sanitary Engineering

Relocationof the Proposed Sewage Pumping Station at Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Bridge

Mr. David V. Auld, Director of Sanitary Engineering of the District of Columbia, stated that recent developments had caused a change in the location of the proposed Sewage Pumping Station between the approaches to the Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Bridge. A change in the construction schedule will require a relocation of the sewage pumping station 85 feet west of the original location. Mr. Auld showed the Commission a color rendering of the pumping station in the proposed new location. After studying this drawing, the Commission approved the new location with the comment that it seemed to improve the appearance of the structure. The Secretary was directed to prepare a letter setting forth the Commission's findings.

EXHIBIT C

3. General Services Administration, Public Buildings Service

a. Revised Design of the Proposed Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Building at 17th Street and New York Avenue, N.W.

The members were shown drawings of a proposed revised design for the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation building to be built at the corner of 17th Street and New York Avenue, N.W. The revised design was the result of a special meeting in New York City, on October 5, 1960, when the architect members of the Commission met with a representative of the General Services Administration, officials of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and their architects, to consider the design for the building. At this meeting the Commission made the following recommendations:

1. That the material of the facades be darker in color, possibly granite, with simplification of the details around the windows. It was suggested that the windows surround be of bronze rather than stone.

2. That the top floors or cresting of the building be made more classical in proportions and more like a loggia; that the canopy be thinner and more supports introduced.

3. That the vertical rows of windows adjacent to each corner be eliminated.

4. That the design of the lower story be changed to give the effect that the columns are carried up into the second story in order to put greater emphasis on the height of the base. The elimination of the driveway from the Seventeenth Street side was strongly urged.

5. That architectural emphasis be given to certain elements of the facade, such as the windows of the board room or important offices, so as to reduce the monotonous rhythm of the window treatment.

After careful study the members congratulated the architects on their success in carrying out the recommendation of the Commission made at the October 5th meeting. The members of the Commission felt that the design of the building had been greatly improved.

The members were critical of the attempt to give architectural emphasis to the boardroom windows by surrounding these six windows on the 17th Street facade with a square projection or cornice, and recommended that this feature of the revised design should be eliminated. In regard to the penthouse, the general opinion was that the architects had achieved a more classical design by the use of five-foot modulars, but that the design could be further improved if the modular unit were doubled in size. No action was taken pending a conference with the architects at the morning meeting.

b. Selection of an Artist for a Mosaic Mural in the Los Angeles Custom House and Federal Building

The Commission of Fine Arts was requested to give an expression of its opinion as to the artistic capabilities of two artists nominated by the Public Buildings Service, General Services Administration, to execute a mosaic mural for the new Los Angeles Customs House and Federal Building. The members weregiven summaries of works of art done by the two artists and were shown photographs of mosaic murals they had created.

After considering the samples of each artist's work, the members concluded that both artists were capable men and that it should be left to the architects to choose which of the two they preferred to work with.

The members noted that on the plan of the building a marble bench was shown in front of the wall where the mural was to be placed. It was suggested that this bench be located elsewhere in the lobby of the building and a railing put in its place so that the artist would be able to use all of the wall space available from the floor to the

ceiling. No action was taken pending a meeting with a representative of the General Services Administration.

4. District of Columbia Government
D.C. Department of Buildings and Grounds
a. Benning Branch Public Library

The Commission reviewed plans and drawings of a proposed branch library building on Benning Road near Minnesota Avenue, N.W., submitted by the Department of Buildings and Grounds of the District of Columbia.

The members were not favorably impressed with the design of the building shown in the drawings and believed that a better design for a public library could be achieved. Action was postponed to the following day.

b. Doctors Residence, D.C. General Hospital

The Commission reviewed plans for a proposed Doctor's Residence at the District of Columbia General Hospital near East Capitol Street, N.E.

As in the case of the Benning Branch Library, the members of the Commission did not think that the building was well conceived architecturally. The consensus of opinion was that the architect should be required to re-design the entire building, as the members believed the design was so poor that there was little they could suggest other than a completely new design.

The members stated that it would greatly facilitate the work if the architects, who design the building for the District of Columbia, should appear at the Commission's meetings when the projects are under consideration. This has not been done in the past. It was therefore suggested that a letter should be written to the Engineering Commissioner of the District requesting that the architects come to the Commission for conferences on District of Columbia government projects. No action was taken relative to the design of the building at the D.C. General Hospital pending further discussion the following day.

c. Design of a New Elementary School at 4th and W Streets, N.W.

Plans and elevations for a proposed three story elementary school to be built at 4th and W Streets, N.W. were shown to the members. The members stated that in most other cities in the United States elementary schools were no longer being built three stories high and

that this objectionable feature should be eliminated in Washington. They also objected to the design of the building, which one member described as "resembling more a factory than a school." No action was taken pending a conference with representatives of the District of Columbia Department of Buildings and Grounds.

5. Veterans Administration
Revised Design for the Proposed Veterans Hospital in the District of Columbia

The revised designs for the proposed Veterans Administration Hospital to be built in the District of Columbia were viewed by the members. The Chairman read a letter to the members from the Administrator of Veterans Affairs, stating that funds for the development of underground or other parking facilities were not available. One of the members suggested that the question was not whether funds were available, but that it was the Commission's recommendation that a study should be made as to the cost of a parking facilities and if the cost was not excessive than the facility could be built.

The Commission took no action on the design of the building pending a conference with the architects and representatives of the General Services Administration. EXHIBIT D

6. American Battle Monuments Commission
Proposed Restoration of the Third Division Memorial at Chateau-Thierry, France

Plans and photographs of a model of the proposed restoration of the Third Division Memorial at Chateau-Thierry, France, were submitted to the Commission for consideration by the American Battle Monuments Commission. The Secretary explained that the Third Division Memorial was partially destroyed in World War II and that the people of Chateau-Thierry, would like to see the Memorial restored. The French government will pay a portion of the restoration costs.

The plan submitted contained two alternate sites for the Memorial. One plan is that the monument would be placed on the bank of the Marne River at the intersection of the Avenue de Soissons and the Avenue Jule LaFebvre, under this plan new parts would be added to the remains of the old monument. The second plan is to build an entirely new monument which would be placed in a garden site facing the river, but north of the Avenue Jules LaFebvre. The new monument will commemorate the actions of the Third Division in World War II as well as in World War I. No action was taken pending a meeting with Mr. Frederick Winant, Chairman of the Reconstruction Committee for the Third Division.

7. District of Columbia Government
Department of Highways and Traffic

Virginia Approaches to the Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Bridge

A preliminary drawing showing the Virginia approaches to the Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Bridge, submitted by the Department of Highways and Traffic of the District of Columbia, was examined by the Commission. The drawing showed the bridge splitting into three arms on the Virginia shore, but no contours or elevations were indicated. No action was required by the Commission and none was taken. It was suggested that the Commission request information from the Department of Highways and Traffic as to the contours of the land and the elevations of the bridge approaches.

III. Review

1. Department of the Army, Heraldic Branch, Office of the Quartermaster General

a. Revised Design for the Four Chaplains Medal

A revised design for the Four Chaplains Medal was submitted to the Commission for its comment. The design of the obverse showed an eagle with outstretched wings. On the reverse side a Cross, a tablet of the Ten Commandments and A Book with the names of the four chaplains, was superimposed on the back of the eagle.

The members' opinion was that, although the idea was an improvement over the design previously shown to them, the execution was not well done. They believed that the wings of the eagle were too short and the legs too long, and that the attachment for the ribbon was so placed that it looked as though it was coming out of the eagle's head.

The suggestion was made that the reverse of the medal would be improved if it were a flat surface, rather than sculptured to resemble the back of the eagle on the obverse side and that the Cross, the Tablet and the Book be superimposed on the flat surface. No action was taken pending a conference with representatives of the Heraldic Branch.

b. Airman's Medal

The members resolved that the design of the Airman's Medal submitted to them be approved, with the recommendation that the lettering be improved.

2. James Madison Memorial

The Chairman reported that he had recently met with Dr. Harold

Dodds, chairman of the James Madison Memorial Commission, and Mr. David Kendall, and that Dr. Dodds had discussed the question as to the form the Madison Memorial might take. He reported that Dr. Dodds was considering the possibility of a small library on East Capitol Street near the Library of Congress. The library would house a collection of volumes dealing with the history of the American Constitution. The members were of the opinion that a library would be a fitting memorial and that it should be an extension of the Library of Congress.

The members also expressed the opinion that the idea of using the granite columns which were removed from the East front of the Capitol building when it was renovated was impractical for the reason that the columns are so large in scale that any building utilizing them would have to be also of immense proportions. This was suggested in the Act of Congress establishing the Memorial Commission. No action was taken.

IV. Shipstead-Luce Act

Report of Actions Taken on Shipstead-Luce Applications Dated 10/18/60 (Appendix 1)

The Secretary reported the recommendations of the Shipstead-Luce Panel of Architects on the Shipstead-Luce applications forwarded for review by the District of Columbia Department of Licenses and Inspections since 20 September 1960. This report was dated 18 October 1960 and comprised Appendix 1 of the Order of Business. After noting the individual cases, the favorable recommendations as shown on Appendix 1 were confirmed by the members. The members also confirmed the unfavorable recommendations by the Shipstead-Luce panel in the following cases.

S.L. 2332, 701 Market Space,N.W.
Kanns Department Store
S.L. 2333, 701 Market Space, N.W.
Kanns Department Store

In regard to S.L. 2336, 1701 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., the Olmstead Building, the Commission recommended that a darker stone be used on the building in addition to the recommendations made by the Shipstead-Luce Panel.

V. Old Georgetown Act

Report of Actions Taken on Old Georgetown Act Applications dated 18 October 1960.

The Secretary reported the actions taken, after recommendations of the Old Georgetown Panel of Architects, on Old Georgetown Act Applications

forwarded for review by the District of Columbia Department of Licenses and Inspections since October 13, 1960. This report was dated October 18, 1960 and comprised Appendix 2 of the Order of Business. The members confirmed the favorable recommendations taken as shown on Appendix 2. Confirmation was also given to the unfavorable recommendations by the Old Georgetown Panel in the following cases:

O.G. 2692 1644-34th Street, N.W.
O.G. 2702 2807-09 M. Street, N.W.

The meeting was thereupon recessed at 6:00 p.m. until the following morning at 9:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

C. L. Martin

C.L. Martin
Counsel

Approved:

D.R. Wilson
Secretary

MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
OCTOBER 18, 1960

AGENDA OF BUSINESS:

2:00 p.m. 1. CAPITOL, ROOM 7210, INTERIOR DEPARTMENT BUILDING

2. ADMINISTRATION

a. Approval of Minutes of September 8 Meeting

b. Date of Next Meeting: 16 November 1960

Executive Session: 15 November 1960

c. Budget for Fiscal Year 1962

3. SUBMISSIONS

2:30 p.m. a. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, NATIONAL CAPITAL PARKS (Mr. Haussmann)

(1) Site of Headquarters Building

(2) List for 1962 Budgetary Approval

3:30 p.m. b. D.C. GOVERNMENT, DEPARTMENT OF SANITARY ENGINEERING (Mr. Auld)

Sewage Pumping Station relocation at Theodore Roosevelt Bridge

c. GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION, PUBLIC BUILDINGS SERVICE

(1) Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Building, Revised Design

(2) Los Angeles Custom House, Selection of artists for Mosaic Mural

d. D.C. GOVERNMENT, DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

(1) Benning Branch Public Library

(2) Doctors Residence, D.C. General Hospital

(3) Elementary School, 4th and W Sts., N.W.

4. Presidential Reviewing Stand.

[illegible]

[illegible] design for [illegible]

[illegible]

Third Division Memorial, Chateau-Thierry, France

[illegible]

Virginia Approaches to Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Bridge

4. REVIEW

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY, HERALDIC BRANCH, OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL

a. Revised design for Four Chaplains Medal

b. Revised design for Airman's Medal

5. DISCUSSION

a. James Madison Memorial

b. National Capital Planning Commission - "2000 A.D. Project" (Newspaper clipping)

c. Cultural Center, Status (Newspaper Clipping)

6. SHIPSTEAD-LUCE ACT

a. Report of Actions taken on Shipstead-Luce Applications, dated 10/18/60 (Appendix 1)

~~b. Informal revision to S.L. 2240 (Chartered Building) at 1001 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.~~

~~c. Informal revision to S.L. 2305 (Apartment Building) 2020 I Street, N.W.~~

d. Informal revision to S.L. 2237 (National Academy of Sciences Building) at 2101 Constitution Avenue, N.W.

7. OLD GEORGETOWN ACT

a. Report of Actions taken on Old Georgetown Act Applications dated 10/18/60 (Appendix 2)

28 October 1960

Dear Mr. Wirth:

At its meeting on October 18, the members of the Commission of Fine Arts met with a representative of the National Capital Parks, Mr. William Haussmann, in regard to an alternative site which has been proposed as a possible location for the Operations Building of National Capital Parks in East Potomac Park.

As you know, the Commission of Fine Arts has never favored the use of park or recreational land for public buildings or public works projects. Therefore, the Commission opposes in principle the loss of park land and recreational facilities in East Potomac Park which would result from placing the Operations Building on a site south of Buckeye Drive. However, the Commission has decided that, in this instance, it would not oppose use of park land north of Buckeye Drive for the Operations Building, provided the proposed building were to be placed as close to the highways as possible. Accordingly, the Commission approved the site in East Potomac Park with the condition that the building be placed north of Buckeye Drive.

In the event that use of the site north of Buckeye Drive should prove to be inadequate the Commission recommends that serious consideration be given to the selection of a site on Independence Avenue, Southwest, at the head of the 10th Street Mall project. We understand that the General Services Administration already owns land in this project for which it is seeking federal tenants. The selection of such a location would avoid the use of any park land for the Operations Building and would provide a more central location in the city for the operations and activities of the National Capital Parks. The 10th Street Mall location seems to the Commission to be both logical and desirable, and we hope that it will receive most serious consideration and not be treated merely as an alternative to a location north of Buckeye Drive in East Potomac Park. Mr. Haussmann indicated that he would investigate the possibilities of a site in the area of the 10th Street Mall.

EXHIBIT A

recent statement of a National Capital Parks representative, more than 350 acres have been withdrawn from park and recreational land in the District of Columbia during the last few years for the construction of public works projects, and the Commission believes this practice should be discontinued.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

David E. Finley
Chairman

Mr. Harry T. Thompson
Superintendent
National Capital Parks
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington 25, D. C.

24 October 1960

Dear Mr. Auld:

At a meeting on October 18, the members of the Commission of Fine Arts were pleased to meet with you in regard to the site changes of the Sewage Pumping Station to be located at the east end of the Theodore Roosevelt Bridge.

The members considered that the change in the station's location of 85 feet to the westward, as illustrated in the perspective sketches, did not substantially affect the original design which they had previously accepted, and they approved the scheme as presented.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

David E. Finley
Chairman

Mr. David Auld
Director of Sanitary Engineering
District of Columbia Government
Washington 4, D. C.

EXHIBIT C

October 11, 1960

Mr. David E. Finley, Chairman
The Commission of Fine Arts
7000 Interior Department Building
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Mr. Finley:

Many thanks for your letter of September 23, 1960 approving the general concept of the design for the proposed Veterans Administration Hospital, Washington, D.C.

Sketches of the revised entrance treatment and samples of a new colored brick will be presented to the Commission on October 19, 1960. We believe these will meet with your approval.

We agree with you that arrangements for parking should be as inoffensive as circumstances permit and we have investigated the possibility of providing underground or other parking structures. I regret to inform you that funds for such an expenditure are not available and we are proceeding with the development of the parking areas in the most attractive manner. We feel sure that you will be satisfied with the results.

Sincerely,

SUMNER G. WHITTIER
Administrator

RECEIVED
OCT 13 1960
THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
WASHINGTON, D.C.

EXHIBIT D

RECEIVED
THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
WASHINGTON, D. C.
OCT 12 1960
NOTED

NO	ADDRESS AND OWNER	PROJECT
2335	2020 F St., NW Sage Associates	Revision of SL 2305 to erect 8-story apartment building.

ACTION: Approved, provided bathroom windows at western end, south elevation wall (Elevation D) be eliminated; also brick spandrel walls on the projecting facade over main entranceway should be eliminated, 10/18/60.

2336	1701 Penna. Ave., NW International Bank of Washington	12-story office building.

ACTION: Approved, provided penthouse be more differentiated from main facade of building by eliminating vertical supports. Also, cornice should be carried across entire penthouse with slight chamfer on corner facing Pennsylvania Avenue and 17th Street, 10/18/60.

Exhibit C

REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN ON SHIPSTEAD-LUCE ACT APPLICATIONS SINCE 9/20/60 10/18/60

NO	ADDRESS AND OWNER	PROJECT
2329	107 D St., NE Station View Restaurant	1 black & white striped canvas awning. Erected above show-window & both doors. Suspended from bldg. with fixed frames.
ACTION: App'd., provided that (1) Simple type of awning is used without curved front; (2) height be reduced to 4'; & (3) that stripes be omitted and solid color canvas be used, 10/13/60.		
2330	625 Penna. Ave., NW Atlantic Lunch	Revision to SL 2327 to remodel front of restaurant.
ACTION: Application withdrawn at the request of owner, 10/17/60.		
2331	301-9th St., NW Hickory House Restaurant	1 s-f, 24 sq-ft sign. Individual metal ltrs. lighted from rear with white--nonexposed--neon tubing.
ACTION: App'd., provided advertising matter is removed from window above, 10/13/60.		
2332	701 Market Space, NW Kann's Dept. Store	Revision to SL 2311. Install aluminum sun shade marquee on exist. showwindows & remove canvas awnings.
ACTION: Disapproved; recommend that projection of canopy not exceed projection of existing showwindows. (See S. L. 2311, dated 8/1/60, and S. L. 2308, dated 8/1/60), 10/18/60.		
2333	701 Market Space, NW Kann's Dept. Store	Revision to SL 2308. Alterations to 8th St. facade. Remove old showwindows & install canopy. Canopy to extend 8' beyond bldg. line.
ACTION: Disapproved; recommend that projection of canopy not exceed projection of existing showwindows. (See S. L. 2308, dated 8/1/60, and S. L. 2311, dated 8/1/60), 10/18/60.		
2334	6200 Nebraska Ave., NW Army Distaff Foundation	5-story brick distaff hall.
ACTION: Approved, as revised, 10/13/60.		

APPENDIX 1

NO	ADDRESS AND OWNER	PROJECT
2705	3015 P St., NW Mrs. J. A. Kratz	Replace fence with new wire-woven cedar weave fence on steel post & rails; 5' high on west side; 6'-6" high on east side.
ACTION:	Recommended, 10/11/60	
2706	2914 M St., NW Pierre Gaunoux	Install brick steps & railing; install larger window & cornice above door & window; install small-pane sash in 2nd fl. windows; install wood panel door.
ACTION:	Recommended for parts visible from public highway, 10/11/60.	
2707	3700 "O" St., NW Georgetown University	7-story brick & limestone building. (Basic Science & Research Bldg.) Also reinforced concrete ret. wall; varies up to 12'.
ACTION:	Recommended for parts visible from a public highway, 10/18/60.	
2708	3527 "O" St., NW Thomas Carroll	Bracket light at front door.
ACTION:	Recommended, 10/11/60	

Exhibit 7

REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN ON OLD GEORGETOWN ACT APPLICATIONS SINCE 10/13/60 10/18/60

NO	ADDRESS AND OWNER	PROJECT
2692	1644-31st St., NW Armistead Peter, III	Replace exist. chain link fence with 7' & 6' chain link fence.
ACTION: Not recommended. Recommend use of wood palings or saplings as previously recommended for fence at northeast corner, 10/18/60.		
2700	3213 Q St., NW J. F. Harris, III	1 s-f, 19 sq-ft sign. Temporary, non-illuminated Construction sign.
ACTION: Recom'd. as temporary sign for period not to exceed 6 months, 10/11/60.		
2701	3024 Q St., NW Mrs. Ralph I. Straus	Split sapling, French picket fence on 2 by 4's & 6 by 6's. Height: 7' & 4'.
ACTION: Recommended, 10/11/60.		
2702	2807-09 M St., NW G. Trakas & G. Parris (Restaurant & Beauty Shop)	Remove exist. showwindows & install Georgetown type windows. Cover remaining front of bldg. with gray mural stone. New entrance doors.
ACTION: Not recom'd; recom. design be restudied to achieve architectural treatment of doors, windows & transoms, more in keeping with intent of Public Law 808, 81st Cong. Also recommend Mural Stone be omitted, & suggest front elevation be sand-blasted to reveal natural brick. Request submission of revised design, 10/11/60.		
2703	1808 Wisc. Ave., NW Mrs Mary Weingarten	Raze in entirety 1 metal garage in rear.
ACTION: Recommended, 10/11/60.		
2704	1800 Wisc. Ave., NW H. A. Gill & Son (Office)	1-story, brick veneer, addition & basement in rear.
ACTION: Returned for more information; architectural detail insufficient to make determination, 10/11/60.		

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

INTERIOR DEPARTMENT BUILDING

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

3 November 1960

Dear Colonel Clarke:

I enclose copies of letters which I have written, on behalf of the Commission of Fine Arts, to Mr. Blaser, Director of the D. C. Department of Buildings and Grounds, with reference to plans presented at the meeting of the Commission on October 18 for a proposed Public Library on Benning Road near Minnesota Avenue, N.E.; an Elementary School at 4th and W. Streets, N.W.; and a Residence for Doctors, on the grounds of the D. C. General Hospital.

The members of the Commission, after giving careful study to the plans submitted, agreed that they could not approve them. They were greatly concerned at the quality of the work submitted, and felt that they cannot lower their standards for the design of public buildings in the District of Columbia beyond those generally accepted in other localities.

They realize the difficulties with which you are faced as regards both money and availability of land in crowded residential districts. These difficulties, however, exist in other cities, which, in many instances, are meeting their responsibilities by school taxes or bus transportation in the case of schools where sufficient land is not available.

In the cases under consideration at our recent meeting, individual reports, with recommendations for changes, have been made to the Director of the Department of Buildings and Grounds. The members, however, have asked me to point out their concern that the projects achieved nothing more than a mediocre quality of design, a failing that alone would have been sufficient reason to disapprove them. In addition, it appeared that some of the basic premises upon which the programs had been based seemed to exclude the possibility of ever achieving a good design.

The Commission would like to suggest, therefore, that in order to avoid future situations such as this, the programs and methods followed in the preparation of the designs under consideration should be re-examined. They believed that the requirements, such as sites, costs, materials, etc., as defined in the budget sketches and the design manuals, some extracts of

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

INTERIOR DEPARTMENT BUILDING

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

which were circulated at the presentation, might tend to limit the designer in making a good beginning from which a final design could be developed. The selection of architects on a basis of proved excellence in design also would seem to be desirable. This city is particularly deserving of excellence in design of its public buildings; certainly the basic conditions and standards set for our public building program should be no less than is necessary to achieve this end.

The Commission, therefore, strongly urges that these problems be carefully considered and that an effort be made to improve the design of public buildings in Washington, such as schools, libraries, and hospitals.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

David E. Finley
Chairman

Colonel F.J.Clarke
Engineer Commissioner for the
District of Columbia
District Building
Washington 4, D. C.

Colonel T. J. Clarke
3 November 1950

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which were circulated at the pre-meeting, might help to limit the designer in making a good beginning from which a final design could be developed. The selection of architects on a basis of proved competence in design also would seem to be desirable. Once city is particularly deserving of excellence in design of its public buildings, certainly the basic conditions and standards set for our public buildings program should be no less than is necessary to achieve this end.

The Commission, therefore, strongly urges that these problems be carefully considered and that we might be given the opportunity to discuss the design of public buildings in Washington, especially, however, the Federal Triangle.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

David E. Finley
Chairman

Colonel T. J. Clarke
Engineer Commissioner for the
District of Columbia
District Building
Washington 4, D. C.

REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN ON OLD GEORGETOWN ACT APPLICATIONS SINCE 10/5/60 10/13/60

NO	ADDRESS AND OWNER	PROJECT
2694	3023 Dent Pl., NW Mrs. E. H. Allen	Remove exist. coping & install lead & steps from sidewalk to entrance.
ACTION: Recommended for work visible from a public highway, 9/30/60.		
2696	3256 Prospect St. C.J. Sanders (Dress Shop)	Alterations to showwindow.
ACTION: Recommended for work visible from a public highway, 9/30/60.		
2697	3026 "O" St., NW Col. R. M. Johnson	Install post & lantern in front yard.
ACTION: Recommended, 9/30/60.		
2698	1535-34th St. Jos. E. Keller	Revision to OG 2688 to remodel, rebuild, & readjust perimeter walls.
ACTION: Recom'd., as revised, for work visible from a public highway, except for sizes of lights in 1st & 3rd fl. windows which should be brought into a closer relationship with each other, 9/30/60.		

Exhibit 7-1

REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN ON OLD GEORGETOWN ACT APPLICATIONS SINCE 9/20/60 10/5/60

NO	ADDRESS AND OWNER	PROJECT
2695	3500 N St., NW Georgetown U. (Nevils Bldg.)	Remove sheet metal work & install 4 new windows in line with exist. windows below.

ACTION: NOTE: This case was withdrawn at the telephone request of Chief, Permit Branch, D. C. Dept. of Licenses & Inspections, on 9/22/60.

2699	1046 Wisc. Ave. Chas. D. Ford	Raze 3-story brick & frame bldg. To be razed in entirety.

ACTION: Not recom'd. In accordance with the terms of reference contained in Public Law 808, 81st Cong., the age & architectural character of this structure qualifies it as an example of the type of bldg. for which protection Public Law 808 was enacted. It is hoped that some means may be devised to save it from destruction. See attached letter to D. C. Engineer Commissioner, dtd. 9/29/60, 9/29/60.

29 September 1960

Dear Colonel Clarke:

I am writing you in regard to an application filed with the Department of Licenses and Inspections for the District of Columbia for a permit to raze a building in Georgetown on Lot 811, Square 1182 (1046 Wisconsin Avenue.) The permit application is designated as O.G. No. 2699.

The building sought to be razed is a house which so far as is known was erected by William Marbury and John Peter for a loan from the Bank of Columbia during the War of 1812. The interior of the house is such that all of its details such as plaster cornices, chair rails, stairway and fireplaces are intact. In February of this year the Georgetown Redevelopment Corporation offered the owner, Mr. Charles Ford, $22,000 for the house because of the building's historical and architectural merit. The Redevelopment Corporation is of the opinion that the house does not need restoration, but simply repairs, and it is my understanding that the offer still stands. I am enclosing copies of correspondence from the Georgetown Redevelopment Corporation about the house.

The Board of Architectural Consultants for Georgetown has advised the Commission that it is of the opinion that the house is of historic merit as an example of the type of architecture used in the National Capital in its initial years within the meaning of the Old Georgetown Act. The Board met with the owner of the house on March 22, 1960 after he filed an application for a permit to raze the building in February of this year, and sought to impress him upon the historic nature of his dwelling. The owner appeared to be interested only in tearing down the building and using the space for a parking lot for trucks used in his business.

As you know, frame structures of architectural and historic value in the National Capital are becoming more scarce with every passing year. The Commission believes that to sacrifice a structure

Exhibit 7-1

of this type, built in 1812, to the expediency of a temporary parking lot for trucks would be a grave error.

Therefore, in view of the historic value of the building and the firm offer to purchase it given by the Georgetown Redevelopment Corporation, the Commission of Fine Arts recommends that this permit application be denied.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

David E. Finley
Chairman

by C. L. Martin
Legal Counsel

Colonel Frederick J. Clarke
Engineer Commissioner for the
District of Columbia
District Building
Washington 4, D. C.

Copy to:
Mr. Julian P. Green
Chief, Permit Branch
D. C. Department of Licenses &
Inspections
District Building
Washington 4, D. C.

2 Encls

Mrs. Alan James
3333 Prospect Avenue, N. W.
Washington 7, D. C.

February 18, 1960

Dear Mr. Wilson,

I am enclosing a letter to Mr. Charles Ford, the present owner of the yellow house on Grace street and Wisconsin Avenue (1046 Wisconsin) from Georgetown Redevelopment Corpoartion. I have spoken to Mr. Ford several times about buying the house, but he has always said he didn't know what he would do with it, didn't know what he could do with it. It appears he wishes to destroy it.

We are prepared to sign a contract immediately with Mr. Ford. This Corporation was formed to preserve the buildings without which a Fine Arts Commission and PL 808 would have no raison d'etre. They are increasingly rare, and to lose one just at the time interest in the old port is reviving would be hard.

I have seen the house with a real estate agent and an architect; it has all its own detail intact, dan dates from 1812. Plaster cornices, chair rails, lights, stair, fireplaces, all untouched except by some accumulated grime. I have made a brief title search: on original lot 72 opposite the Columbian Inn, built 1812, this house and the house on Fishing Lane (3068 M) were put up by Wm Marbury and John Peter for a loan of $22,000 from the Bank of Columbia during the War of 1812. This is a good lead which requires further research. It is in any case a substantial, early house, requiring not restoration but simply repairs.

Perhaps this is not important to you, but Mr. Ford does not own the building he is in, so he would be destroying the house for a temporary expedient. Could the city not arrange something so Mr. Ford could leave his trucks outside his shop rather than destroy the house? Something else to consider is the fact that this house has a very valuable non-conforming residential use in that mis-zoned area of the old port.

Our letter to Mr. Ford went off this morning. Should he accept our offer I will let you know immediately. He certainly cannot claim confiscation at a profit like that.

We greatly appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

OFFICE